

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-53 are pending in this application. Applicant cancels herein claims 1-25, 48-50 and 53. Examination and consideration of pending claims 26-47 and 51-52 are respectfully requested.

Applicant Elects Subset (II): Claims 26-47 and 51-52 for Examination

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement, setting out the following claim subsets as distinct inventions: (I) claims 1-25 and 53, drawn to a business trading method; (II) claims 26-47 and 51-52, drawn to a computer program; and (III) claims 48-50, drawn to a business process apparatus. Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the claims classified by the Examiner under subset (II), namely claims 26-47 and 51-52, for examination. Non-elected claims 1-25, 48-50 and 53 are hereby canceled.

As the foregoing election is performed without traverse, Applicant submits that the present application retains special status. Expedited examination is therefore appropriate.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the claims of subsets (I) and (III), as well as other claims of similar or varying scope, in one or more divisional or continuation patent applications.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that pending claims 26-47 and 51-52 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HECKER LAW GROUP

Date: December 1, 2004

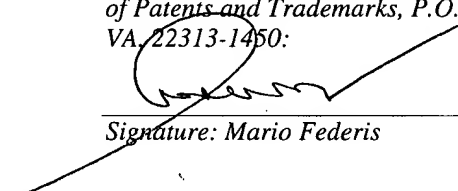
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